1	H.353
2	Introduced by Representative Cordes of Lincoln
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Energy; weatherization; funding
6	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
7	fee on the purchase of fossil fuels to fund the Home Weatherization Assistance
8	Program. The bill also proposes to a create a weatherization trades workforce
9	recruitment and training program funded through the Home Weatherization
10	Assistance Program.
11 12	An act relating to weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment
13	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
14	Sec. 1. FINDINGS
15	The General Assembly finds that, in addition to the weatherization efforts
16	provided under the current Home Weatherization Assistance Program
17	established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization would
18	benefit the health of Vermont citizens, the environment, and the economy.
19	Accelerated weatherization efforts will:
20	(1) decrease the emission of greenhouse gases;

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1	(2) provide fuel-cost savings and savings for the Low Income Home
2	Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Home Heating Fuel Assistance
3	Program;
4	(3) increase job opportunities in the field of weatherization by recruiting
5	and training new applicants to the industry;
6	(4) reduce lost work and school days; and
7	(5) lower the economic burden on the Vermont Treasury caused by the
8	costs of emergency room visits and medical services provided to Vermonters
9	living in cold homes during winter months.
10	Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:
11	§ 2502. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
12	* * *
13	(b) In addition, the Director shall supplement, or supplant, any federal
14	program with the State Home Weatherization Assistance Program.
15	* * *
16	(5) The program shall also fund the Weatherization Trades Workforce
17	Training Program established in section 2504 of this title.

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to connect; and

1	Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 2503 is amended to read:
2	§ 2503. FUEL TAX
3	(a)(1) There is imposed a tax on the retail sale of heating oil, propane,
4	kerosene, and other dyed diesel fuel delivered to a residence or business, at the
5	rate of \$0.02 \$0.04 per gallon.
6	* * *
7	(d) No tax under this section shall be imposed for any month ending after
8	June 30, 2019. [Repealed.]
9	Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 2504 is added to read:
10	§ 2504. WEATHERIZATION TRADES WORKFORCE TRAINING
11	<u>PROGRAM</u>
12	(a) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the regional career
13	technical education (CTE) centers, shall establish the Weatherization Trades
14	Workforce Training Program, consistent with the following:
15	(1) The Department, CTE centers, and adult technical education
16	providers shall:
17	(A) advertise the availability of workforce training in weatherization
18	trades;
19	(B) organize informational sessions, meetings, and other group and
20	individual opportunities for prospective trainees and weatherization companies

1	(C) coordinate matches between trainees and employers.
2	(2) In the event of a successful match, the Department shall facilitate the
3	negotiation and execution of training and employment agreements, pursuant to
4	which:
5	(A) a prospective trainee agrees to pursue specified training,
6	education, or certification necessary to meet the employer's workforce need;
7	(B) the Department agrees to provide educational and administrative
8	support to the trainee and the cost of training; and
9	(C) the employer agrees to employ the trainee upon the successful
10	completion of training, passage of an examination, or attainment of a required
11	certification, or a combination of these.
12	(3) The CTE centers, subject to approval by the Department, shall
13	provide education and training that meet the needs of trainees and employers.
14	(b) The Department shall have the authority to use available private, State,
15	and federal funding to implement the provisions of this section, including up to
16	\$250,000 from the Home Weatherization Program established in section 2502
17	of this title.
18	(c) On or before January 15, 2020, the Department shall submit a report to
19	the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General
20	Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

- addressing the implementation of this section, profiles of trainees and
- 2 <u>employers that participated, and any recommendations for further action.</u>
- 3 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.